

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

A brushless wire rope cleaner, comprising:

a base plate;

two side members arranged on the base plate at a distance from one another;

a cover extending from one side member to the other side member so that the base plate, the side members and the cover form a channel;

a cleaning element slideably arranged in and slideable through the channel, the cleaning element having an externally exposed surface to be applied against a wire rope to be cleaned; and

a tensioning mechanism operatively arranged to slide the cleaning element through the channel to maintain the externally exposed surface against the wire rope, the tensioning mechanism including an elastic band extending across an inlet of the channel, with the band engaging the distal end of the cleaning element to advance the cleaning element through the channel, the elastic band comprising two ends, with each end of the elastic band respectively attached to one of the side members.

Claim 2 (Original)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning element is a block of extruded polystyrene.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the base plate has an upwardly facing surface area of a different size than a downwardly facing surface area of the cover.

Claim 4 (Original)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the base plate has an upwardly facing surface area substantially equal to a downwardly facing surface area of the cover.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Original)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the tensioning mechanism includes a spring arrangement located behind the distal end of the cleaning element so as to apply a force on the cleaning element to slide it through the channel.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)**Claim 8 (Currently Amended)**

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1 [[7]], wherein a respective mounting peg is attached to each side member, the ends of the elastic band being attached to the mounting pegs.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1 [[5]], wherein a respective mounting peg is attached to the base plate adjacent each of the side members, the elastic band has two ends with the ends of the elastic band being attached to the mounting pegs.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented)

A brushless wire rope cleaner, comprising:

a base plate;

two side members arranged on the base plate at a distance from one another;

a cover extending from one side member to the other side member so that the base plate, the side members and the cover form a channel;

a cleaning element slideably arranged in the channel; and

a tensioning mechanism operatively arranged to slide the cleaning element through the channel, wherein the tensioning mechanism includes an elastic band extending across an inlet of the channel so that the band engages the distal end of the cleaning element and thereby advances the cleaning element through the channel, wherein the side members each have a slot that extends from the distal end of the side member so that the elastic band can pass through a portion of the side members to push the distal end of the cleaning element past the distal end of the side members.

Claim 11 (Original)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 10, wherein the slots have a bottom which forms a stop for the elastic band beyond which the cleaning element is not pushed.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented)

A brushless wire rope cleaner, comprising:

a base plate;

two side members arranged on the base plate at a distance from one another;

a cover extending from one side member to the other side member so that the base plate, the side members and the cover form a channel;

a cleaning element slideably arranged in the channel; and

a tensioning mechanism operatively arranged to slide the cleaning element through the channel, and further comprising vibration damping members mounted on inner surfaces of the channel.

Claim 13 (Original)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 12, wherein the damping members are felt strips.

Claim 14 (Original)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, and further comprising a frame on which the base plate is mounted.

Claim 15 (Original)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 14, wherein the frame includes a platform to which the base plate is mounted and leg members arranged at opposite ends of the platform.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented)

A brushless wire rope cleaner, comprising:

a base plate;

two side members arranged on the base plate at a distance from one another;

a cover extending from one side member to the other side member so that the base plate, the side members and the cover form a channel;

a cleaning element slideably arranged in the channel; and

a tensioning mechanism operatively arranged to slide the cleaning element through the channel and further comprising a frame on which the base plate is mounted, wherein the frame includes a platform to which the base plate is mounted and leg members arranged at opposite ends of the platform, wherein the base plate is bolted to the platform.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1 [[7]], wherein the elastic band is looped around attachment on the side members.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 17, where a respective mounting peg is attached to each side member.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented)

The brushless cleaner according to claim 1 [[5]], wherein a respective mounting peg is attached to the base plate adjacent to each of the side members.